



KIDS IN DANGERSM

ACTION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2002

Activity Report

Parents, caregivers, policymakers and reporters often

have difficulty finding information about dangerous children's products. To meet that need, Kids In Danger launched our **redesigned web site** in November. A powerful tool in educating the public about dangerous children's products and disseminating vital safety information, www.KidsInDanger.org is updated regularly to offer articles about children's product safety and report on Kids In Danger's activities. Virtual visitors can use the site to refer friends to KID's mailing list, search the CPSC for recalled products, or view our publications online. Kids In Danger extends a special thank you to the volunteer web site team consisting of **Carmen Marti, Scott Jelinek, Linda Stone, John Krewson, and Holly Raider Burt** for their hard work and dedication.

December marked the completion of an ambitious outreach project. Through a generous grant from Toys R' Us, KID distributed almost 1000 copies of ***It's No Accident: How Corporations Sell Dangerous Baby Products*** by Marla Felcher to consumer advocates, childcare and medical professionals, grandparents, foster parents, public libraries, and other stakeholders and policymakers nationwide. ***It's No Accident*** is available in bookstores nationwide and at amazon.com. Access amazon.com through our web site and KID will receive a portion of the proceeds of your purchases.

In January, KID launched a series of **workshops** to educate groups about children's product safety and about what they can do to protect their children from recalled products. To date, we have addressed au pairs from Lincoln Park and Hyde Park and several groups of childcare providers in the Edgewater and Rogers Park neighborhoods. If you are interested in a workshop in your community, or would like to distribute educational materials to concerned parents or caregivers, contact us at 312-595-0649 or email@KidsInDanger.org. Thank you to the Early Childhood Network of Edgewater and Rogers Park, the ParkWest Community Association and the Circle of Service Foundation for funding for our workshops.

Finally, we recently released ***Clear and Present Dangers: Children's Product Recalls in 2001***, a report examining recalls issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). This report found that 52% of all recalls last year were for children's products. Look inside to find out more about how Kids In Danger is working to change the juvenile product industry and what we are doing to educate the public, advocate for children, and promote the development of safer children's products.

KID's Best Friend Award Night

On Monday, May 6, 2002, KID will honor the **Target 5 Consumer Unit of NBC Chicago** for their in-depth coverage of children's safety and tireless efforts to provide lifesaving information to Chicago consumers. The annual Best Friend Award will be presented to **Lisa Parker** along with producer Robin Green and Marion Brooks. A reception, silent auction and award presentation will take place at McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant in Chicago. Watch your mail for an invitation to Kids In Danger's Second Annual Best Friend Award Night!



About Kids In Danger

Sixteen-month-old **Danny Keysar** died in 1998 in a portable crib recalled in 1993. Kids In Danger, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product



safety, was founded in the loving memory of Danny and all victims of children's products. KID's mission is to **promote** the development of safer children's products, **advocate** for children, and **educate** the public, especially parents and caregivers, about dangerous children's products.

Advocacy Report

Kids In Danger has a threefold mission: **to educate, advocate and promote.** As we begin a workshop series and publish brochures to educate childcare providers and parents about dangerous products, and promote safer products through input

into voluntary standards through ASTM International, Kids In Danger also is monitoring and championing the Children's Product Safety Act in states across the country.

First passed in Illinois in 1999 and more recently in Michigan, Arkansas, Louisiana and Vermont, the **Children's Product Safety Act (CPSA)** prohibits the sale or leasing of any unsafe children's product and requires childcare providers to certify that they have checked for and removed recalled products.

Last summer, Kids In Danger approached legislators in states across the country to sponsor the CPSA. State Senator Pat Pascoe in Colorado introduced SB 02-040, which has passed the Senate as of this writing and is waiting for action in the Colorado House. Rhode Island, Washington, Hawaii, Iowa, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Georgia will all consider the CPSA this year. Check the Kids In Danger web site or call our office for the status in any state. More states plan to introduce the bill in 2003, the first year of a new legislative cycle.

While the CPSA protects children from dangerous products already in the marketplace, HR 3283, the **Infant and Toddler Durable Product Safety Act** aims to prevent those dangerous products from reaching the market in the first place. This piece of national legislation was introduced by Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and supported by 30 co-sponsors; it requires certification of premarket testing to standards set by a panel appointed by the CPSC. The bill has been assigned to the Sub-Committee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection and hearings will be scheduled soon. Also on the national level, Rep. Rod Blagojevich is set to reintroduce legislation that requires manufacturers to report the effectiveness of recalls to the public. Let your congressional representative know that you support safe infant and children's products.

State	Bill #	Sponsor
Colorado	SB 02-040	Senator Pat Pascoe Representative Debbie Stafford
Hawaii	SB2138	Senator Jan Buen
Iowa	HF 2234	Representative Ro Foege
Missouri	SB 1068	Senator Patrick Dougherty
Rhode Island	S2493	Senator Catherine Graziano
Washington	S 3004	Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles
West Virginia	HB 4089	Representative Robert S. Kiss

Table Pictured Above: 2002 Legislative Session – Bill Status

Ginzel vs. Kolcraft On December 6, 2001, moments before they were scheduled to go to trial, Kids In Danger co-founders Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar **settled their case against Kolcraft and Hasbro** for the death of their son Daniel Keysar in a Playskool Travel-Lite portable crib. The lawsuit named Kolcraft, the manufacturer of the portable crib, and Hasbro, whose well-known, Playskool brand was on the item through a licensing agreement, as defendants. The settlement of \$3 million is one of the largest on record for the death of a child in an unsafe children's product.

These cribs are time bombs, waiting for the next victim. Kids In Danger calls on Hasbro to finally use its vast resources to retrieve the thousands of cribs still in homes and childcare facilities. They know how to reach parents to sell products - we challenge them to use that knowledge to remove every crib from use.

Perhaps the most important measure of this settlement was **the denial of requests for secrecy** by the manufacturers. Throughout the negotiations, Linda and Boaz stood firm for openness and the ability for others to access the information uncovered by the case.

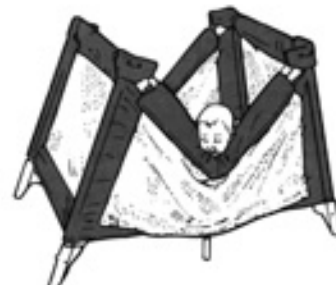


Clear & Present Dangers: Children's Product Recalls in 2001

In February, Kids In Danger released a report highlighting the dangers to children from recalled products. Even though children's products account for a small fraction of the more than 15,000 products regulated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), they make up more than half of the products recalled last year.

The report showed that 118 of the 225 recalls issued by the CPSC in 2001 were for items intended for use by children or for the care of children. In 2001, as in previous years, CPSC recalled an average of two children's products a week. Other findings of the report include:

- Forty-one percent of all children's product recalls are for toys. Nursery products and sports equipment follow at 23% each and clothing at 14%.
- The largest recall was of 3.8 million kid's meals toys from Chik-Fil-A, followed by 3.4 million car seat/carriers by Evenflo. CPSC only has jurisdiction over car seats in their use outside autos. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration regulates their use as transportation safety devices.
- The highest injury rates were for strollers recalled by Century Products (250 injuries reported of 650,000 sold) and highchairs by Graco Products (105 injuries of 860,000 sold).
- Two children died in products that were recalled in 2001: one in a Cosco playpen whose top rails collapsed, and one in a Burger King net-enclosed play structure.
- Safety 1st had the most recalls of any children's manufacturer, with four different products accounting for almost 3.5 million units.



The CPSC and manufacturers do a lackluster job of retrieving recalled products. Until that changes, it is up to consumers to protect themselves. Kids In Danger urges parents and caregivers to check their own homes for these and other recalled items. Please visit our web site or call us for a copy of the report.

Spotlight

Riley Grasseh, March 7, 2000 – January 2, 2001

Dangerous recalled products continue to be used every day by parents and caregivers who are unaware of the dangers posed.

These products create a minefield for our children—no one knows where they are or who will be injured or killed next. Danny Keysar was the 12th victim of one such landmine, collapsing top-rail portable cribs. And early last year, the 14th baby was killed in this type of crib, 9-month-old Riley Grasseh of Longview, Washington.

Having been an EMT, a first aid and CPR teacher, a 911 dispatcher, and a self-proclaimed overprotective parent, Riley's mother Raedyn Grasseh knew more about safety than most. Still, she didn't suspect that the products she used for her own children could be unsafe; she would never knowingly put her child in anything dangerous. Given the number of children's product recalls and the limited outreach to consumers that surrounds them, many recalls are never heard of by consumers.

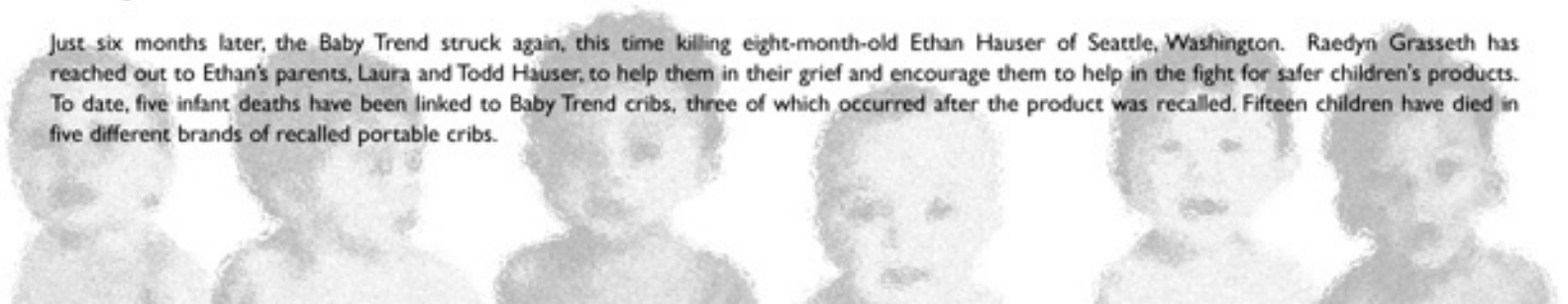


A friend of Raedyn's loaned her a Baby Trend Home & Roam portable playpen, neither of them realizing that the product had been recalled in October, 1993. Riley slept in it—after all, it was marketed as a portable crib. There was no reason to believe the Baby Trend unsafe.

Early in the morning on January 2, 2001, while working the graveyard shift as a 911 dispatcher, Raedyn received a call from her own home. It was her husband. The crib's top rails had collapsed on Riley, and she wasn't breathing. Raedyn dispatched ambulances, but it was too late. The landmine had exploded, and Riley was dead.

Like Linda and Boaz, Raedyn turned her grief toward activism and became an advocate for children's product safety. In the first three weeks after Riley died, she found 21 recalled playpens in her county of less than 4,000 people. She worked with state legislators to pass legislation that would increase education to parents and caregivers about recalled products. Raedyn is now helping support the Children's Product Safety Act that is pending in Washington State.

Just six months later, the Baby Trend struck again, this time killing eight-month-old Ethan Hauser of Seattle, Washington. Raedyn Grasseh has reached out to Ethan's parents, Laura and Todd Hauser, to help them in their grief and encourage them to help in the fight for safer children's products. To date, five infant deaths have been linked to Baby Trend cribs, three of which occurred after the product was recalled. Fifteen children have died in five different brands of recalled portable cribs.



Learn More...

Parents and caregivers can learn about product recall information by calling the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission hotline at 1-800-638-CPSC or visiting www.cpsc.gov. More information is available at our web site, www.KidsInDanger.org.

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Brochures Now Available

Again in 2001, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled children's products at a rate of two per week! Our brochures, available in English and Spanish, offer step-by-step guidelines for keeping yourself informed of product recalls. For more information or to place an order, please call us or visit our web site. There is a minimal charge for bulk orders.

This newsletter was made possible by the generous contributions of Peggy Groves Design, 312-341-0735 & printing by JB Graphics, Inc. 847-956-6001.



Give to Kids In Danger

- KID can now accept donations through payroll deductions and automatic withdrawal. Please call us to find out how.
- If you do not live in the Chicago area, please consider giving a gift to KID in lieu of attending our Annual Fundraiser. Watch your mail for an invitation!
- **Donate Your Car** – Thinking of trading in your automobile? Now you can donate the value of your used car to KID! It's easy – fill out our form, and a towing service will be there to pick up your car in just a couple of days. Contact KID for more information.



Kids in Danger raised a total of \$2660 as the Signature Room at the 95th's February Charity of the Month! **Thank you very much to the Signature Room and all who participated.**

